

ABRAHAM IREDELL

Assisted by Mr. L. V. Rorke

Records of the Iredell clan go back to 1517 in England. In an old Norman Mss. mention is made of the Iredell family. Sir Pierre d'Ancome followed William the Norman and was present at the battle of Hastings; the King being pressed and in danger of his life, Sir Pierre, is stated to have rescued him by slaying those around, to whom the King said: "Sir Pierre, thou hast given me air (Eyre) to breathe," from hence the crest—on a wreath of colours a dexter arm embossed in armour, ppr. tarnished and charged in the hand a sword, etc. The conqueror subsequently gave him large tracts of land about the Dale or Dell. He then from Royal license took the name Eyredale, modernized to Iredell. From Carews Mss., Bib. Coll.

George Iredell was born in 1517. He was more than eighty years old, when he was plaintiff in the famous Loweswater trial in 1597. This was a trial by the 26 tenants of Loweswater who paid fifty years' rent for their indenture lands, and the twelve tenants of Thackthwaite who paid twenty-seven years' rent, as described in the "Cumberland Times", Cockermouth (England), March 18th, 1899, until which date the echoes of that trial lingers among the descendants of those Manors. And as George Iredell, one of the plaintiffs who was eighty years old at the date of the trial (1597) put it "to our great impoverishment and loss."

At the date of the trial Anthony Patrickson became possessor of the Manors, when it became the old story of a King arising who knew not Joseph, and he evidently tried to get the most out of his tenants. The tenants claimed to hold their places by right of personal services, and by certain customary payments. The Lord of the Manor made unusual claims on them, which they resisted, and it is on record that they formed a plan of campaign, and defied him, refused to pay his arbitrary fines, pulled down the fences erected, and the outcome of the affair was a series of trials at York lasting a very long time.

Loweswater was formerly a chapelry under the mother church of St. Bees, and a customary payment to the curate of St. Bees was paid yearly, three shillings and fourpence if sent to the curate, but six shillings and eightpence if the curate had to send for it—a capital way of getting it sent to him.

The tenor of the judgment of this lengthy trial was in favour of the tenants. There may be no difference between landlords and tenants and rectors in 1597 and 1935, but modern restraining laws seem to make a difference.

The following Iredell records have been discovered:—

- 1626—Peter Iredell, son of John of Thackthwaite, baptized 24th, June. Ellin Iredell, daughter of Thomas, baptized (some day either in January or February). Anna Iredell, wife of William, buried 24th, November. Peter Iredell, son of Thomas of Thackthwaite, buried 20th, November.
- 1627—Thomas Iredell, son of William of Thackthwaite, baptized 24th, November. Agnes Iredell, daughter of George of Peill, baptized 16th, February.
- 1628—Janet Iredell, daughter of Thomas of Church Gates, baptized in February. Thomas Burnyeat and Margaret Iredell, married 10th, Jan. Robert Iredell and Ellinore Jackson, married 26th, of April.
- 1629—John Iredell, son of George of Thackthwaite, baptized 10th, of April. William Iredell, son of Thomas of Waterend, baptized 19th, of April. John Iredell, son of George of Peill, baptized 20th, of Dec. Agnes Iredell, daughter of Thomas of Thackthwaite, baptized 1st, Jan. John Iredell, son of John of Thackthwaite, baptized 5th, Feb. John Iredell, son of George of Peill, buried 5th, Jan.
- 1631—John Wilkinson and Agnes Iredell, married 15th, of July. John Iredell, son of George of Thackthwaite, buried 6th, Nov.
- 1632—John Iredell, son of William of Waterend, baptized 20th, of April, Thomas Iredell, son of John of Thackthwaite, baptized 29th, March. Peter Iredell and Anna Burnyeat, married 10th, April. George, died 24th, March.
- 1666—Thomas, son of William Iredell, born 1st, Jan. Thomas Iredell of Ifold, married 1st, of Aug.
- 1667—Janet, daughter of Joseph Iredell, born 24th, May.
- 1669—Agnes, daughter of Allan Iredell, baptized 15th, Nov. William, son of William, baptized 1st, of Jan.
- 1670—Tyson, son of Joseph Iredell, baptized 24th, Feb.
- 1671—Janet, daughter of Allan Iredell, baptized 26th, Sept.
- 1674—Francis, daughter of Thomas Iredell, baptized 12th, April.

- 1675—John, son of John Iredell of Thackthwaite, baptized 1st, Nov. Thomas Iredell of Water Gate, buried 15th, March. Peter, son of John Iredell of Thackthwaite, buried 10th June. Daughter of Thomas Iredell of Thackthwaite, he was buried 14th, July. William Iredell of Thackthwaite, buried 24th, Feb.
- 1676—Elizabeth, daughter of Allan Iredell, baptized 26th, March. Thomas, son of Robert Iredell, baptized 1st, Dec. John, son of Thomas Iredell, baptized 25th, Dec.
- 1677—Matthew, son of William Iredell of Thackthwaite, baptized 15th, Feb. John Pearson and Ann Iredell, married 5th, May. George Iredell of Peill, buried 25th, Jan.
- 1678—Johnathon, son of Robert Iredell, baptized 1st, Dec. Janet, daughter of William Iredell, buried 10th, May. Peter Iredell of Thackthwaite, buried 19th, of Aug. Thomas Iredell of Peill, buried 5th, Dec.

CERTIFICATE OF THOMAS IREDELL TO FRIENDS MEETING AT PHILADELPHIA:—

“From our monthly meeting upon Pardsay Cragg, in Cumberland ye 27th, June 1700, to friends in Pennsylvania or other parts of America. Dear Friends and Brethren—ye tender salutations of our dearest love of truth always continues and reaches forth to you; the account we give you is in behalf of a young man ye bearer hereof, Thomas Iredell, who this day has laid before us ye transporting of himself into Pennsylvania requesting our certificate along with him. We therefore certify to all where he may come, that he has of late years come frequently amongst Friends, his character seems to be sober and truth alike, those who know him best give no other account but well; he comes with consent of his mother, though no friend; and enquiry has been made as to his cleanness as to marriage, but nothing appears to ye contrary. We need not further enlarge, but subscribe ourselves your friends and brethren, in behalf of the aforesaid meeting. Signed by nine members of The Friends.

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE. WHEREAS. Thomas Iredell of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania and Rebeckah Williams of the same place having declared their intentions of marriage with each other before several monthly meetings of the people called Quakers of Philadelphia aforesaid according to the good order used among them; whose proceedings therein after a deliberate consideration thereof

and having consent of parties and relations concerned nothing appearing to obstruct were approved by the said meeting. Now these are to certify all whom it may concern that for the full accomplishing of their said intentions this ninth day of the third month in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and five they, the said Thomas Iredell and Rebeckah Williams appeared in a public meeting of the said people (for the purpose appointed) and others, at Philadelphia aforesaid and the said Thomas Iredell taking the said Rebeckah Williams by the hand in a solemn manner did openly declare that he took her to be his wife promising to be unto her a faithful and loving husband until death should separate them. And then and there in the same assembly the said Rebeckah Williams did in like manner declare that she took the said Thomas Iredell to be her husband promising to be unto him a loving and faithful wife until death should them separate. And moreover the said Thomas Iredell and Rebeckah Williams, (she according to the custom of marriage assuming the name of her husband) as further confirmation thereof did then and there to these presents sign their hands. And we whose names are hereunder subscribed being among others present at the solemnization of their said marriage and subscription in manner aforesaid as witnesses thereunto have also to these presents set their hands the day and year above mentioned. Sgd. Thomas Iredell; Rebeckah Williams. And signed by 27 witnesses.

Thomas and Rebeckah Williams were married in the Friends Meeting House, Second and Market streets, in Philadelphia. They removed to Horsham township, then in Philadelphia county, now in Montgomery county in 1707-1708. Thomas Iredell bought 200 acres of land, fronting on the York road adjoining the Francis Meeting House property, from Samuel Carpenter, on which he built a substantial stone house, barn, &c. On the front door was an iron knocker on which was drilled T.I.1709. The old homestead at Red Hew in Cumberland county in England had 1687 cut in the stone above one of the first story windows. On the mantel above the fireplace in the dining room is carved "T.I.1682". When Thomas Iredell put the knocker on his front door, it is probable he remembered the inscription on the mantel in the old home in England. Thomas Iredell and his wife Rebeckah Williams Iredell were blessed with seven children, the sixth being Robert, born 4th, of third month 1721, and died in the fall of 1791. He married Hannah Luckens, born 21st of 8th, month 1727, and died Jan. or Feb. 1812.

Robert Iredell and Hannah Luckens Iredell were blessed with sixteen children. The third being Abraham Iredell, the subject of this sketch, who was born the 29th, of the sixth month 1751, died in 1806 at Chatham, Ont. He married Hester (Hetty) Marsh, who died in Chatham in about 1817. They left no children.

Jan Luckens and his wife Mary Tyson, with thirteen other families came from Crefeld, Germany, on the Ship Concord, arriving at Philadelphia Oct. 6th, 1683, and settled in Germantown, now part of Philadelphia.

The issue of Jan and his wife Mary was eleven children. William Luckens, 3rd son, married Elizabeth, daughter of Rynier Tyson, on the 27th of 9th month, 1710. Peter Luckens, the 7th son, born 30th, 1st month, 1697, married Gainor Evans on the 28th of 1st month, 1719, and had ten children, one of them being Hannah Luckens born 21st of 8th month, 1727, married Robert Iredell 29th, 2nd month, 1745, and died in 1812, being the mother of Abraham Iredell.

Elizabeth Luckens, a daughter of William, who was 3rd son of Jan and Mary, married Thomas Potts, born 1735. Was a member of the Continental Congress. They had a daughter named Elizabeth born 1760, who married Thomas Barnhill, born 1754. They had a daughter Margaret Barnhill born 1799 who married Cornelius Van Schaick Roosevelt born 1794. They had a son Theodore Roosevelt born 1831 who married Martha Bullock born 1834. They had a son Theodore Roosevelt born 1858 and married Alice Lee born 1861, daughter Alice, 2nd, Edith Kermet Carow born 1861.

“On Board Briton off Sandy Hook,
5th Dec., 1783.

Dear Parents:—I am to now inform you that I am at present very well as to health, but much distressed in parting with my Dear Wife. She proposes coming to spend this winter with you, and perhaps she may be the bearer of this, and I am very sensible that you will comfort her and make her as happy in her troubles as you possibly can. I mean, if I live, to return early in the spring again in hopes of finding you all hearty and well as I hope you are at present. My Dear Parents, I have nothing further to add at present but my sincere wishes for your health and welfare. Remember me most affectionately to my brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts and relations and believe me Dear Parents to remain your ever loving son until death, Sgd. Abraham Iredell.”

"Niagara, 26th July, 1794

Dear Parents:—

I am happy to have it in my power to inform you of our safe arrival after 20 days from New York in good health, and shall get into business here immediately in surveying Thomas Watson's township on the waters of the River Thames leading to Detroit, but am at a loss to affix my place of living at present, as there is every preparation making here for war. I had the pleasure of dining with the Governor and spending most of the day with him, he informs me that Mr. Jay will not succeed in his embassy, if he doesn't there will be war next session of Congress, he has erected a fort on the Miami, and if Wayne should not attempt to molest it, which I am fearful he will, it will then be a sufficient inducement to commence hostilities. The Indians attacked an escort of 200 horses with provisions of Wayne's Army on their march to Fort—took them and destroyed the most of the party, it not being far from the Fort, a Capt. sallied out with his Company to their relief, who was killed and scalped with fifty of his men, fifteen of the Indians killed and seventeen wounded.

I wrote to brother Jonathon from Schenectady, and I shall write to you all opportunities, and hope some of my brothers will write us, Dear Parents, Hetty joins in love to you and brothers, sisters, etc. I remain yours sincerely.

Sgd. Abraham Iredell."

"Niagara, Sept. 4th, 1794.

Dear Parents:—

I am separated from you (by fate) in your old years, but never shall I forget the many favours I have received from your hands, when young, and since I have been a sojourner to and from your habitation, and am always happy when an opportunity offers to write you in order to make a feeble acknowledgement for past favours, which as I observed above, I can't forget. I wrote you by Jonathon Walton soon after our arrival here, which I make no doubt you have received and have the pleasure to inform you that I am much healthier than when I left New York, and I am daily increasing in strength and flesh. Hetty is very well at present, and I am in hopes will continue so. I have been employed since I have been here dividing and surveying out a number of farms adjoining the town of Newark, and between that and the 4 mile creek, bounding on the lake belonging to Col. Butler, Ball, Secord and others (my brother Seth knows the country) where the people have settled during

and since the late war without having the land surveyed for them, it has been rather a pleasant piece of business as the country is thick settled, and good farmers and could be at home every night, or in a good house where they made me welcome (to appearance) and I took it as such, however, I have finished the business, and shall set out next week for the town of York, situated on the north side of lake Ontario, to survey a tract of country 65,000 acres into 200 acre lots for a Mr. Bertzy who is Agent for the Government (or Robert Morris' men formerly) 60 families that moved in from Genesee County lately, and on my return I have a township to survey for Thomas Watson, and one for one Dayton (or Jamimes Associates) from the Genesee, the land is situated on or near the River LeTranche (now Thames) that enters itself into Lake Saint Clair near Detroit, which will be as much as I can do before winter sets in.

I am now to inform you of the news of this country, tho' I am really sorry that I have such news to communicate to you. Gen. L. Wayne and the Indians has had a hand engagement near the rapids of the Miami, and from good authority a number of the Canadians, or Detroit Militia went volunteers with the Indians, the latter lost 25 killed and missing, the former 5 killed or missing, one of which was Charles Clerk, Esq., of Detroit, whom it is said by deserters that has come in from Wayne Army, 31 of them, that he was shot in the knee, was taken and quartered alive, they likewise say that Wayne lost 14 killed and 130 wounded and 9 of the former officers, he came as far as the Fort that has lately been erected there called Fort George, and spoke to the Major Campbell the Commander, but did not fire on them, but retired back to the Glaze of the river entering itself into Miami 30 miles from the Fort. The Militia of this place is order out and there is 200 assembled at Navy Hall and yesterday they drew their Arms, Ammunition and a week's provision, and if Wayne should return again with a stronger force in order to attack that Fort I think he will never return again from whence he came. Hetty joins with me in love to your brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, relations and friends in general.

I remain yours ever loving your

Abraham Iredell."

To Robert Iredell.

During the American Revolutionary War Abraham Iredell was in the British Army, and was appointed Deputy Surveyor General in 1799 for the Western District.

When a photo of him is found it will be published. We are indebted for much of the above family history to Mr. Charles J. Iredell, General Agent, Penn. Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia at Cincinnati.

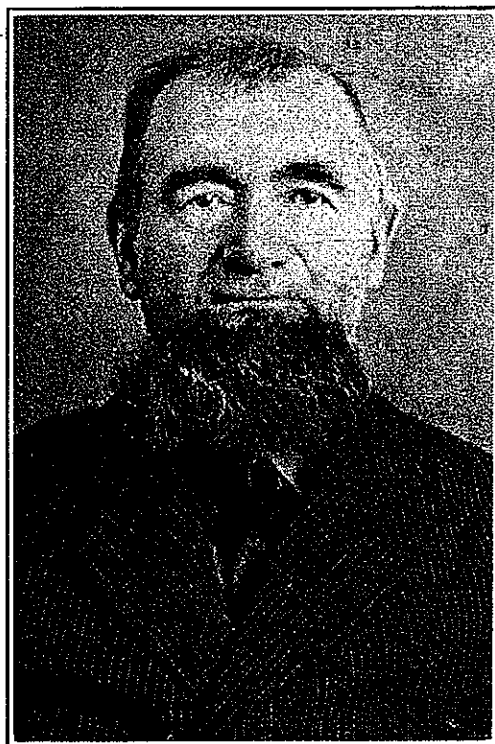
FRANCIS MURPHY

Was born on January 14th, 1832, at Castlebar, Ireland, and was a child of Irish parents, Patrick Murphy and his wife, Mary Lavin.

He came to Canada with his parents in 1848, and settled in Mount Forest, Ont.

On the completion of his schooling he apprenticed himself to George McPhillips, P.L.S., whose biography appeared in the 1929 Report, and was appointed a Land Surveyor on January 17th, 1861.

On November 23rd, 1857, he was married at Mount Forest to Mary Ann Quinn, a school teacher of Richmond Hill, who was born there on July 13th, 1837, and educated at the Ursuline Convent, Quebec. She died in Calgary on April 7th, 1902. Their children were six boys and five daughters, all deceased excepting Miss Maggie, the eldest, and Mrs. J. O'Riley, who was born at Mount Forest on March 19th, 1877.



Miss Maggie and Mrs. O'Riley now reside in Vancouver, B.C. Miss Maggie, living in the Lee Building, at 175 East Broadway, and was favourably known as an entertaining vocalist.